

Brighter Futures Before & After School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY366531
Inspection date	16 June 2008
Inspector	Valerie Fane
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Registered person	Brighter Futures UK Ltd
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School care

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Brighter Futures Before and After School Club owned by Brighter Futures UK Ltd was registered in 2007. It operates from the main hall and associated facilities at the Malvern Wells village hall and has regular use of the primary school playground for outdoor play. The club serves children who attend Malvern Wells CE Primary School or The Wyche CE Primary School.

The club is open Monday to Friday from 15:30 to 18:00 in school term time. There are currently 12 children on roll, some of whom are over eight years of age. Five staff work with the children. Of these two have appropriate qualifications to Level 3 or above. At least half of the staff required to be working with the children are qualified at each session and other staff provide specialist activities.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children develop their understanding of good hygiene because they learn to wash their hands after outdoor play and before eating. Signs above the washbasin also remind children to wash

their hands after using the toilet. Children receive good care in the event of an accident or needing medication because two staff have current first aid knowledge. Staff keep accurate records of any accident that occurs or medication given and ensure that these are signed by parents. However, children's privacy is compromised because they are sometimes named on other children's accident records. Children keep themselves safe in the sun because they apply sun cream before playing outside and wear a hat if they have one.

Children have very good opportunities to learn about healthy eating. They nearly all choose to have a cooked tea provided by the club and enjoy a varied menu of meals that includes both healthy options such as a roast dinner and children's favourites such as pizzas that they decorate themselves. Children exercise control over their eating because they serve themselves a portion of food and older children understand that they need to eat more when they have been exercising. Therefore, children have good opportunities to be involved in the preparation and serving of food and they help to set the tables. They are suitably hydrated because fresh drinking water is always available and staff encourage children to have a drink when they have been exercising or out in the sun.

Children have excellent opportunities for fresh air and exercise. They use the school playground before they go to the village hall each night. They like to play in the adventure playground or have games of football, tag or hide-and-seek. They improve their control and co-ordination as they try to use the bouncing toys and are very pleased with themselves when they finally master a new skill. Staff support children well to help them practise skills or to join in their games. Back at the hall children have a physical zone where they can use bats and balls, play table tennis or enjoy parachute games because staff put out a different activity each night.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children use premises that are suitable and are kept clean and well maintained. The layout of the equipment is attractive and welcoming and staff go to considerable effort to enhance a rather drab environment with fairy lights and a vase of flowers. Children use a range of high quality, well-maintained equipment that is suitable and safe. Staff are extending the selection available and are building on children's needs and interests as they do so. Children self-select from the range put out by staff each day because of the storage limitations in shared premises.

Children receive care in a safe and secure environment because staff have assessed and minimised hazards. For example, children now use different toilet facilities because of concerns over other hall users having access to the original toilets. Staff carry out detailed risk assessments of the premises and the different activities. Children develop very good awareness of their own safety because they learn to use equipment such as the glue gun safely. They are safe when they are collected from school because staff use designated meeting points for the older children and collect the youngest children from the reception class. Children understand why they must wear a fluorescent vest to walk along the road to the village hall in the 'walking bus'. They know that it is dangerous to push one another and that they must look out for dog dirt or broken glass on the pavement.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because staff have a good understanding of the symptoms of child abuse and the procedures to follow if they were to have concerns about a child in their care. The club owner has included a child protection discussion as part of the induction for all staff and has identified a need as part of her self-evaluation to send all staff on the next available training course. Parents are made aware of the child protection policy before admission.

Children learn to protect themselves from possible abuse because staff talk to them about staying safe, help them to understand that they are entitled to their personal space and talk to them about their right to privacy when using the toilet facilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children have a fantastic time at the club and thoroughly enjoy attending. They settle well and develop strong relationships with the friendly staff. They enjoy an exciting range of planned activities and staff adapt their prior planning each day to meet the needs of the particular children who will be attending. Children are able to continue their play and learning at future sessions because staff note how they respond to different activities and follow their leading in the planning. Staff divide the room into different zones and children know the types of activities available in each zone. For example, they know that if they want to 'chill out' and do something quiet they can go to that zone and look at books on their own or with a member of staff.

Children particularly like the challenge zone and identify this as one of their favourites. Staff provide a new challenge each week that is planned to capture the interests of particular children. For example, children thoroughly enjoy finding out how far they can roll a car down a ramp. The following week they are excited to find that they have to try to build a bridge across some trays of water for their cars using resources such as art straws.

Children take part in very interesting and innovative craft activities individually and as a group. For example, they make individual squares to be part of a quilt. They use a very wide range of resources and methods to make their squares. They use fabric crayons to draw their own pictures on the squares and staff iron it to seal it. Children then use a heat gun under close supervision to decorate their squares and are very proud of the finished result. They make a display to take part in a local well-dressing competition using different techniques such as painting and dying different materials to create a beautiful display on the theme of Malvern water.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children of all ages develop their individuality and self-esteem because staff know them as individuals and plan sessions according their particular interests and needs. Children take ownership of their club because they are fully involved in its running. They have regular opportunities to say how they feel about coming and to contribute ideas. When the owner is considering making changes to the running of the provision that affect the children, such as changes to the tea menus, she discusses these with them before making a final decision. Children become more aware of the local community and its culture because they take part in local events such as the well-dressing competition. They have an excellent introduction to other cultures through music and dance activities such as salsa dancing and staff plan to celebrate a wide range of different festivals as these occur throughout the year.

Children behave extremely well. They have helped to form the club's rules and sign to say that they will keep to them. This means that children take responsibility for their own behaviour and generally respond very positively to the excellent role models provided by the staff. Staff make very good use of well-deserved praise and are always polite and thank children for doing things so that children develop respect for them and follow their example. When children

occasionally display challenging behaviour staff use very effective strategies so that children understand the impact of what they have done on other people and the reasons for the club rules.

The group has not yet cared for children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. There is an appropriate policy in place and staff recognise the importance of working closely with parents to ensure children's needs are met. Where children have temporary special needs staff work closely with parents to provide excellent support for such children and to provide support to parents.

Children benefit from excellent continuity of care because staff work closely with their parents and also develop strong links with the teachers at the primary school. Parents receive detailed information about the club before admission because the club has an interesting and informative brochure. Further information is provided on the well-designed web site and the policy folder is readily available on the club notice board. Children's ongoing needs are met extremely well because staff and parents exchange information through regular conversations. Parents see photographs of children enjoying activities at the end of each session and the owner is storing these in named folders on her computer so that parents will receive a disc with them on at the end of each term as a record of their children's time in the club. Parents contribute ideas with regard to the running of the club and its effectiveness through questionnaires asking them for their opinions of the service provides and a suggestions box is always available. The club owner responds to suggestions made on the questionnaire by discussing them with staff and children to decide whether or not to implement them. Children are protected because parents are made aware of how to make a complaint to the regulator and a log is in place to record any complaints that might be made.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children flourish in the well-organised club environment. They are protected from harm because the recruitment procedures are thorough. This ensures that all staff have undergone Criminal Records Bureau checks and are suitable to be in contact with children. Clear induction procedures are in place for new staff and a routine programme of essential training for all staff is being established. A sufficient number of qualified staff work with the children at all times and the staffing is frequently supplemented by extra staff who provide expertise in particular fields such as arts and crafts or dance. This greatly enhances children's experiences. However, children are not fully safeguarded because their hours of attendance are not recorded consistently.

Children benefit greatly from the owner's commitment to ongoing self-evaluation of the provision. She has a clear view of the strengths of the group and has also identified areas for improvement under each of the outcomes for children. Children's welfare is safeguarded because all required policies are in place. Parents provide all necessary information and consents before their child attends the group and the owner is aware of the need to inform Ofsted of significant events or changes that may affect the registration.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- improve children's privacy; ensure other children are not named on the accident records
- improve the consistency of recording of children's hours of attendance.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk